CLAIMS

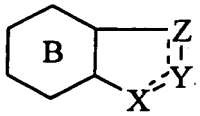
1. Compound of formula (I) :

$$R-A-R' \quad (I)$$

wherein :

◆ A represents :

– a ring system of formula (II) :



(II)

wherein • X represents an oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or NR_0 (wherein R_0 represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl group, an aryl group, an aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl group in which the alkyl moiety is linear or branched) or SO_2Ph,

• Y represents a nitrogen atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2),

• Z represents a nitrogen atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2),

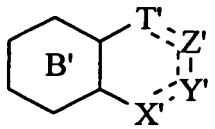
but X, Y and Z cannot represent three hetero atoms simultaneously,

• B represents a benzene or pyridine nucleus,

• the symbol .... means that the bonds may be single or double, it being understood that the valency of the atoms is respected,

wherein R substitutes the ring B and R' substitutes the ring containing the groups X, Y and Z, or R and R' substitute the ring B,

– a ring system of formula (III) :



(III)

wherein • X' represents an oxygen or sulphur atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2),

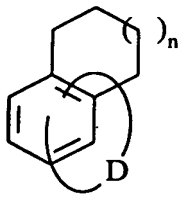
- Y' represents a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or NR_0 wherein R_0 is as defined hereinbefore,
- Z' represents a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or NR_0 wherein R_0 is as defined hereinbefore,
- T' represents an oxygen or sulphur atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2),

it being understood that, when Y' or Z' represents a hetero atom, the other three variables ((X', Z', T') and (X', Y', T'), respectively) cannot represent a hetero atom,

- the symbol .... is as defined hereinbefore,
- B' represents : * a benzene nucleus,
  * a naphthalene nucleus when X', Y', Z' and T' do not simultaneously represent a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2),
  * or a pyridine nucleus when X' and T' simultaneously represent a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2),

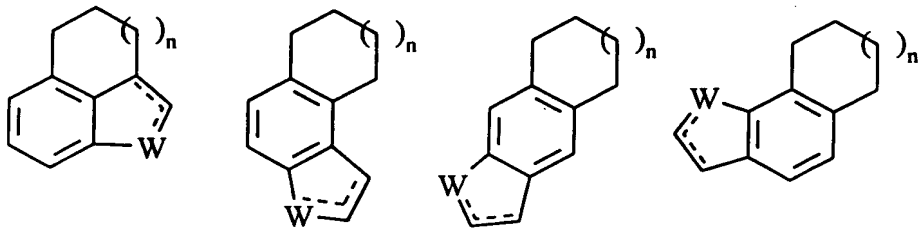
wherein R substitutes the ring B' and R' substitutes the ring containing the groups X', Y', Z' and T', or R and R' substitute the ring B',

– a ring system of formula (IV) :



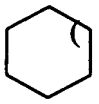
(IV)

representing the ring systems (IV_{a-d}) :



(IV_a) (IV_b) (IV_c) (IV_d)

wherein
- n is an integer such that $0 \leq n \leq 3$,
- W represents an oxygen, sulphur or nitrogen atom, or a group $[C(H)_q]_p$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2, and p is 1 or 2) or NR_0 wherein R_0 is as defined hereinbefore,
- the symbol .... is as defined hereinbefore,

wherein R' substitutes the ring  and R substitutes one or other of the two other rings,

– or a biphenyl group wherein R substitutes one of the benzene rings and R' substitutes the other, or R and R' substitute the same benzene ring,

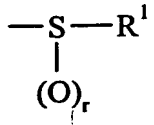
it being understood that the ring systems of formulae (II), (III) and (IV) and the biphenyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') by from 1 to 6 radicals, which may be the same or different, selected from R_a, OR_a, COR_a, $COOR_a$, $OCOR_a$, OSO_2CF_3, cyano, nitro and halogen atoms,

wherein R_a represents a hydrogen atom, an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl group, a linear or branched $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$polyhaloalkyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkyl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl group in which the alkyl group is linear or branched, an unsubstituted or substituted $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkenyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$cycloalkenyl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl group in which the alkyl group is linear or branched, an aryl group, an aryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl group in which the alkyl moiety is linear or branched, an aryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl group in which the alkenyl

moiety is linear or branched, a heteroaryl group, a heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl group in which the alkyl moiety is linear or branched, a heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkenyl group in which the alkenyl moiety is linear or branched, an unsubstituted or substituted linear or branched (C_1-C_6)heterocycloalkyl group, an unsubstituted or substituted heterocycloalkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl group in which the alkyl moiety is linear or branched, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocycloalkenyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl group in which the alkyl moiety is linear or branched,

◆ R represents :

– a group of formula (V) :



(V)

wherein • r is an integer such that $0 \leq r \leq 2$,

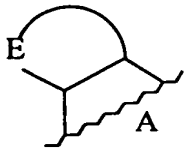
• R^1 represents a halogen atom, a group R_a, OR_a, COR_a or $COOR_a$, wherein R_a is as defined hereinbefore,

it being understood that R cannot represent a group SO_3H,

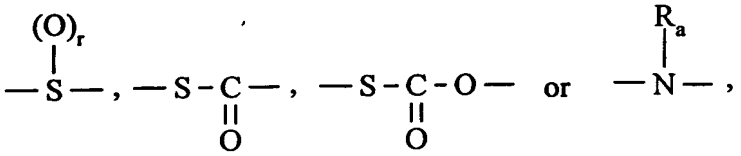
– a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a, which may be the same or different, may take any of the values of R_a and also may form, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, a 5- to 10-membered cyclic group which may contain, in addition to the nitrogen atom, from one to three hetero atoms selected from oxygen, sulphur and nitrogen,

– or, when A represents a ring system of formula (II) or (III) or a biphenyl group, forms, together with two adjacent carbon atoms of the cyclic structure A carrying it,

a ring of formula (VI) :



(VI)

wherein E represents a group 

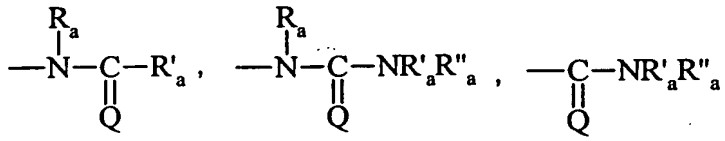
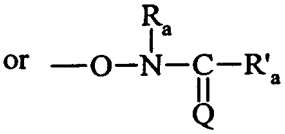
wherein r and R_a are as defined hereinbefore,

the ring formed containing from 5 to 7 atoms and it being possible for the said ring to contain from 1 to 3 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, sulphur and oxygen, and one or more unsaturations, and being optionally substituted by one or more radicals, which may be the same or different, selected from R_a, OR_a, COR_a, $COOR_a$, $OCOR_a$, $NR'_aR''_a$, $NR_aCOR'_a$, $CONR'_aR''_a$, cyano, oxo, SR_a, $S(O)R_a$, SO_2R_a, CSR_a, $NR_aCSR'_a$, $CSNR'_aR''_a$, $NR_aCONR'_aR''_a$, $NR_aCSNR'_aR''_a$ and halogen atoms,

wherein R_a, R'_a and R''_a, which may be the same or different, may take any of the values of R_a and R'_a and R''_a may also form, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, a cyclic group as defined hereinbefore,

- and R' represents a group of formula (VII) :

$$-G-R^2 \qquad \text{(VII)}$$

wherein
- G represents an alkylene chain $-(CH_2)_t-$ (wherein t is an integer such that $0 \leq t \leq 4$), optionally substituted by one or more radicals, which may be the same or different, selected from R_a, OR_a, $COOR_a$, COR_a (wherein R_a is as defined hereinbefore) and halogen atoms,
- and R^2 represents a group  or  wherein Q, R_a, R'_a and R''_a (which may be the same or different) are as defined hereinbefore, it being possible for R'_a and R''_a to form, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, a cyclic group as defined hereinbefore,

it being understood that :

– "heterocycloalkyl" is taken to mean any saturated mono- or poly-cyclic group containing from 5 to 10 atoms containing from 1 to 3 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur,

– "heterocycloalkenyl" is taken to mean any non-aromatic mono- or poly-cyclic group containing one or more unsaturations, containing from 5 to 10 atoms and which may contain from 1 to 3 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur,

– the term "substituted" used in respect of the expressions "alkyl", "alkenyl" and "alkynyl" indicates that the groups in question are substituted by one or more radicals, which may be the same or different, selected from hydroxy, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)polyhaloalkyl, amino and halogen atoms,

– the term "substituted" used in respect of the expressions "cycloalkyl", "cycloalkylalkyl", "cycloalkenyl", "cycloalkenylalkyl", "heterocycloalkyl", "heterocycloalkenyl", "heterocycloalkylalkyl" and "heterocycloalkenylalkyl" indicates that the cyclic moiety of the groups in question is substituted by one or more radicals, which may be the same or different, selected from hydroxy, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)polyhaloalkyl, amino and halogen atoms,

– "aryl" is taken to mean any aromatic, mono- or poly-cyclic group containing from 6 to 22 carbon atoms, and also the biphenyl group,

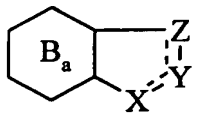
– "heteroaryl" is taken to mean any aromatic mono- or poly-cyclic group containing from 5 to 10 atoms containing from 1 to 3 hetero atoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulphur,

it being possible for the "aryl" and "heteroaryl" groups to be substituted by one or more radicals, which may be the same or different, selected from hydroxy, linear or branched

(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl, linear or branched (C_1-C_6)polyhaloalkyl, cyano, nitro, amino and halogen atoms,

it being understood that :

– when A represents a ring system of formula (IIa) :



(IIa)

wherein X, Y, Z and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore, B_a represents a benzene nucleus and R represents a group of formula (V), then R' cannot represent a group G-R^2 wherein G represents a single bond (t=0) and R^2 represents a group –$CONR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined hereinbefore,

– when A represents a naphthalene nucleus and R represents a group of formula (V), then R' cannot represent a group G-R^2 wherein G represents a single bond (t=0) and R^2 represents a group -$NHCOR_b$ wherein R_b represents a group (C_1-C_4)alkyl or phenol optionally substituted,

– when A represents 1-naphthol and R represents a group of formula (V), then R' cannot represent a group G-R^2 wherein G represents a single bond (t=0) and R^2 represents a group -$CONHR_c$ wherein R_c represents an optionally substituted phenyl group,

– when A represents a tetrahydronaphthalene nucleus and R represents a group of formula (V), then R' cannot represent a group G-R^2 wherein G represents a single bond (t=0) and R^2 represents a group -NR_aCOR_d wherein R_d represents a (C_3-C_8)cycloalkyl group,

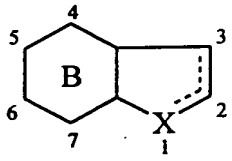
– when A represents an indole nucleus substituted in the 2-position by an optionally substituted phenyl group, then R^2 cannot represent a group -$NHCOR_e$ wherein R_e is a group containing an aromatic or non-aromatic mono- or bi-cyclic heterocycle,

– the compound of formula (I) cannot represent :

* N-{2-[4-methylthio]-*1H*-3-indolyl]ethyl}formamide
* 2-(acetylamino)-3-{7-[(2-hydroxyethyl)thio]-*1H*-3-indolyl}propanamide
* 2-(acetylamino)-3-{2,7-di[(2-hydroxyethyl)thio]-*1H*-3-indolyl}propanamide,

their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

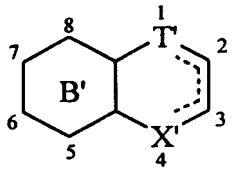
2. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') :



(II')

wherein B, X and the symbol ..... are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

3. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') :



(III')

wherein B', X', T' and the symbol ..... are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

4. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') substituted in the 5-position by a group R as defined in claim 1 and in the 3-position by a group R' as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

5. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') substituted in the 7-position by a group R as defined in claim 1 and in the 1- or

2-position by a group R' as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

6. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R represents a group of formula (V), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

7. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R represents a group of formula (VI), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

8. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R represents a group $NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

9. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R represents a group of formula (V) wherein r is 0 and R^1 represents a group R_a as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

10. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R represents a group $NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

11. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R represents a group of formula (VI) wherein E represents a group $-S(O)_r-$ or $-NR_a-$ wherein r and R_a are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

12. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R' represents a group G-R^2 wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkylene chain -$(CH_2)_t$-, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group $-N(R_a)-C(=Q)-R'_a$, $-N(R_a)-C(=Q)-NR'_aR''_a$ or $-C(=Q)-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R_a, R'_a, R''_a and Q are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

13. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein R' represents a group G-R^2 wherein G represents an alkylene chain -$(CH_2)_t$-, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group –$NHCOR'_a$ or –$CONHR'_a$ wherein R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

14. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') and R represents a group of formula (V), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

15. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') and R represents a group –$NR'_aR''_a$, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

16. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') and R represents a group of formula (VI), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

17. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') and R represents a group of formula (V), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

18. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') and R represents a group –$NR'_aR''_a$, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

19. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') and R represents a group of formula (VI), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

20. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') substituted in the 5-position by a group of formula (V) and in the 3-position by a group of formula (VII), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

21. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') substituted in the 5-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ and in the 3-position by a group of formula (VII), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

22. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') substituted in the 4-5-position by a group of formula (VI) and in the 3-position by a group of formula (VII), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

23. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') substituted in the 7-position by a group of formula (V) and in the 1- or 2-position by a group of formula (VII), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

24. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') substituted in the 7-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ and in the 1- or 2-position by a group of formula (VII), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

25. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') substituted in the 7-8-position by a group of formula (VI) and in the 1- or 2-

position by a group of formula (VII), their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

26. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II'), which are substituted in the 5-position by a group of formula $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$

wherein r and R_a are as defined in claim 1

and substituted in the 3-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group

$-N(R_a)-\underset{\underset{Q}{||}}{C}-R'_a$, $-N(R_a)-\underset{\underset{Q}{||}}{C}-NR'_aR''_a$ or $-\underset{\underset{Q}{||}}{C}-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein Q, R_a, R'_a and R''_a

are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

27. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II'), which are substituted in the 5-position by a group of formula $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R_a and R'_a are as defined in claim 1

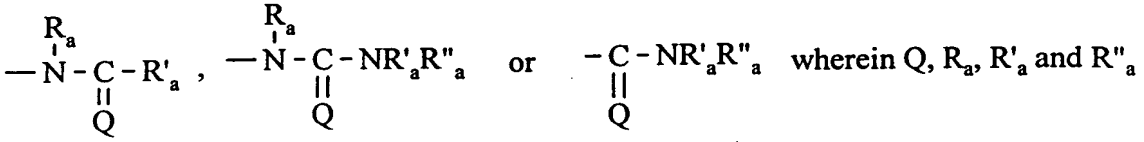
and substituted in the 3-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group

$-N(R_a)-\underset{\underset{Q}{||}}{C}-R'_a$, $-N(R_a)-\underset{\underset{Q}{||}}{C}-NR'_aR''_a$ or $-\underset{\underset{Q}{||}}{C}-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein Q, R_a, R'_a and R''_a

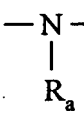
are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

28. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II') substituted in the 4-5-position by a group of formula (VI) wherein E represents a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-$ wherein r is as defined in claim 1

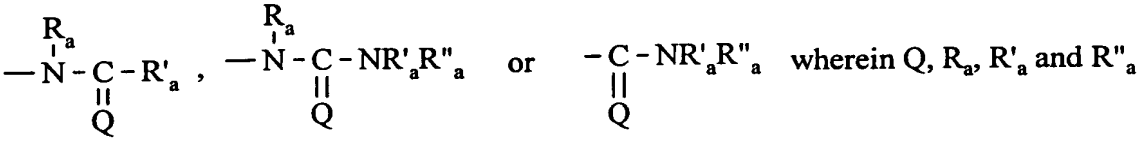
and which are substituted in the 3-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group



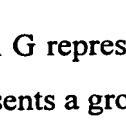
are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

29. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (II'), which are substituted in the 4-5-position by a group of formula (VI) wherein E represents a group  wherein R_a is as defined in claim 1

and substituted in the 3-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group

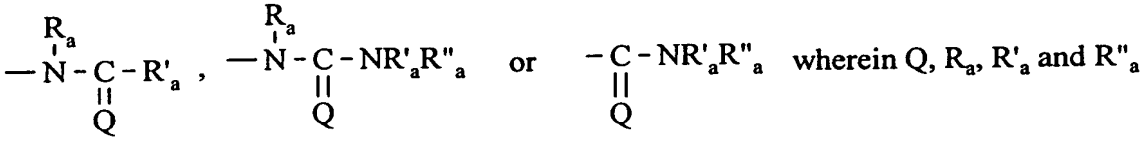


are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

30. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III'), which are substituted in the 7-position by a group of formula 

wherein r and R_a are as defined in claim 1

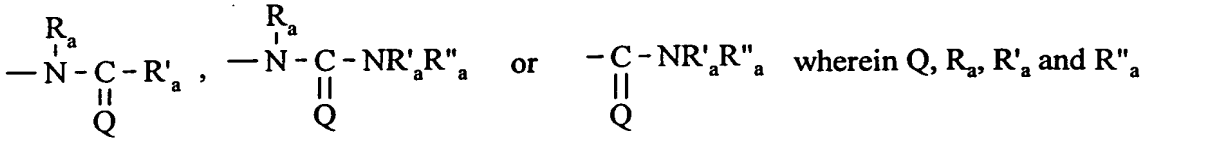
and substituted in the 1- or 2-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group



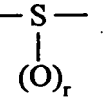
are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

31. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III'), which are substituted in the 7-position by a group of formula $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1

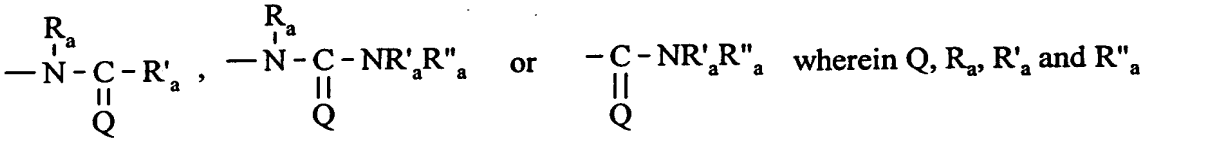
and substituted in the 1- or 2-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group



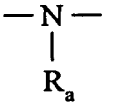
are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

32. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III'), which are substituted in the 7-8-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein E represents a group  wherein r is as defined in claim 1

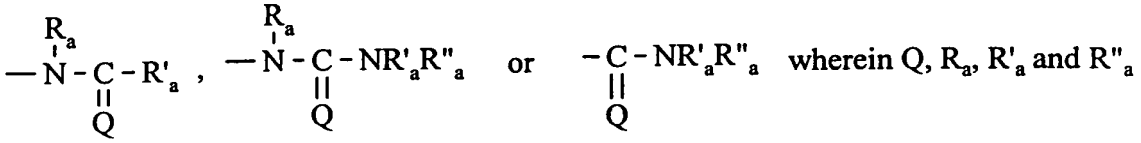
and substituted in the 1- or 2-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group



are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

33. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a ring system of formula (III') substituted in the 7-8-position by a group of formula (VI) wherein E represents a group  wherein R_a is as defined in claim 1,

and which are substituted in the 1- or 2-position by a group of formula (VII) wherein G represents an unsubstituted or substituted chain $-(CH_2)_t-$, wherein t is 2 or 3, and R^2 represents a group



are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

34. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a naphthalene, dihydro- or tetrahydro-naphthalene nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R'), preferably in the 3-position, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

35. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a benzofuran or dihydrobenzofuran nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R'), preferably in the 2-position, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

36. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a benzothiophene or dihydrobenzothiophene nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R'), preferably in the 2-position, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

37. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents an indole or indoline nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R'), preferably in the 2-position, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

38. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents an azaindole nucleus optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R'), preferably in the 2-position, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

39. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a naphthalene, dihydro- or tetrahydro-naphthalene nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 3-position, substituted in the 7-position by a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$ wherein r and R_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 1-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t$-NHCOR'$_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t$-CONHR'$_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'$_a$ is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

40. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a benzofuran or dihydrobenzofuran nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents r and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$ wherein r and R_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t$-NHCOR'$_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t$-CONHR'$_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'$_a$ is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

41. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a benzothiophene or dihydrobenzothiophene nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$ wherein r and R_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t$-NHCOR'$_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t$-CONHR'$_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'$_a$ is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

42. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents an indole or indoline nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the

2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$ wherein r and R_a are as defined in

claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t$-NHCOR'$_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t$-CONHR'$_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'$_a$ is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

43. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents an azaindole nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$ wherein r and R_a are as defined in

claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t$-NHCOR'$_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t$-CONHR'$_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'$_a$ is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

44. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a furopyridine nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$ wherein r and R_a are as defined

in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t$-NHCOR'$_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t$-CONHR'$_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'$_a$ is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

45. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a thienopyridine nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-\underset{\underset{(O)_r}{|}}{S}-R_a$ wherein r and R_a are as

defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t$-NHCOR'$_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t$-CONHR'$_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'$_a$ is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

46. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a naphthalene, dihydro- or tetrahydro-naphthalene nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 3-position, substituted in the 7-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 1-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

47. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a benzofuran or dihydrobenzofuran nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

48. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a benzothiophene or dihydrobenzothiophene nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

49. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents an indole or indoline nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

50. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents an azaindole nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

51. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a furopyridine nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

52. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a thienopyridine nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 2-position, substituted in the 5-position by a group $-NR'_aR''_a$ wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, and substituted in the 3-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a is as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

53. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1, wherein A represents a naphthalene nucleus, which are optionally substituted (in addition to the substituents R and R') in the 3-position, substituted in the 7-position by a group –SAlk wherein Alk represents a substituted or unsubstituted linear or branched (C_1-C_6)alkyl group, and substituted in the 1-position by a group $-(CH_2)_t-NHCOR'_a$, $-(CH_2)_t-CONHR'_a$ or $-(CH_2)_t-NH-CO-NR'_aR''_a$, wherein t is 2 or 3 and R'_a and R''_a are as defined in claim 1, their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

54. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylthio)-1-naphthyl]-ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

55. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylthio)-1-naphthyl]-ethyl}butanamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

56. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-methylthio)-1-naphthyl]-ethyl}-1-cyclopropanecarboxamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

57. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylthio)-1-naphthyl]-ethyl}-2,2,2-trifluoroacetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

58. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-methyl-N'-{2-[7-(methylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}urea, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

59. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[3-benzoyl-7-(methylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

60. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[3-benzyl-7-(methylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

61. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(ethylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

62. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(propylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

63. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylsulphinyl)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

64. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylsulphonyl)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

65. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylthio)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

66. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylsulphinyl)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

67. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(methylsulphonyl)-1,2,3,4,-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

68. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(benzylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

69. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(benzylsulphinyl)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

70. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[7-(benzylsulphonyl)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base.

71. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 ~~that are~~ selected from :

* N-[2-(7-mercapto-1-naphthyl)ethyl]benzamide
* N-[2-(3-benzyl-7-mercapto-1-naphthyl)ethyl]-1-cyclohexanecarboxamide
* N-[2-(5-mercaptobenzo[b]furan-3-yl)ethyl]acetamide, and
* N-[2-(2-benzyl-5-mercaptobenzo[b]furan-3-yl)ethyl]-1-cyclopropanecarboxamide,

~~their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

72. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 ~~that are~~ selected from :

* N-{2-[7-(allylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}-2-phenylacetamide
* N-{2-[7-(benzylthio)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}heptanamide
* N-methyl-2-[7-(cyclopentylthio)-1-naphthyl]acetamide
* N-cyclohexyl-4-[7-(phenylthio)-1-naphthyl]butanamide
* N-{2-[7-(allylthio)-3-phenyl-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide
* N-{2-[7-(benzylthio)-3-phenyl-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, and
* N-{3-[7-(1-propenylthio)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl]propyl}acetamide,

~~their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

73. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 ~~that are~~ selected from :

* N-{[(6-benzylthio)-2-phenyl-*2H*-3-chromenyl]methyl}acetamide
* N-{2-[5-(2-pyridylthio)benzo[*b*]furan-3-yl]ethyl}acetamide
* N-{[2-benzyl-5-(3-butenylthio)benzo[*b*]thiophen-3-yl]methyl}acetamide
* N-{2-[5-(allylthio)-2-benzylbenzo[*b*]furan-3-yl]ethyl}-1-cyclopropanecarboxamide
* N-{2-[5-(propylthio)-2-phenylbenzo[*b*]thiophen-3-yl]ethyl}acetamide
* N-{2-[5-(isopentylthio)benzo[*b*]thiophen-3-yl]ethyl}acrylamide, and
* N-{[2-(2-furylmethyl)-5-(2-propynylthio)benzo[*b*]furan-3-yl]methyl}acetamide,

~~their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

74. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-{2-[1-methyl-2-phenyl-5-(propylthio)-*1H*-pyrrolo[*2,3-b*]pyridin-3-yl]ethyl}acetamide, ~~its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

75. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-[4-(butylthio)-2,3-dihydro-*1H*-2-phenalenyl]propanamide, ~~its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

76. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 ~~that are~~ selected from:

* ethyl 10-{3-[(cyclohexylcarbonyl)amino]propyl}-1-methyl-*3H*-benzo[*f*]thiochromene-3-carboxylate
* N-[3-(1-oxo-2,3,7,8,9,10-hexahydro-*1H*-benzo[*f*]thiochromen-10-yl)propyl]acetamide, and
* N-[2-(*3H*-benzo[*f*]thiochromen-10-yl)ethyl]-2-bromoacetamide,

~~their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

77. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 ~~that are~~ selected from:

* N-[(2-benzyl-8,9-dihydro-*7H*-thieno[*3,2-f*]thiochromen-1-yl)methyl]acetamide
* N-[3-(7-methyl-*7H*-thiochromeno[*6,5-b*]furan-1-yl)propyl]acetamide, and
* N-methyl-4-(8-hydroxy-7,7-dimethyl-7,8-dihydrothieno[*3',2':3,4*]benzo[*f*]furan-1-yl)-butanamide,

~~their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

78. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 ~~that are~~ selected from:

* N-{2-[7-amino-3-(cyclopropylmethyl)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide
* N-{2-[7-(diethylamino)-1-naphthyl]ethyl}-2-phenylacetamide
* N-{2-[7-(hexylamino)-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl]ethyl}acetamide, and
* N-[(6-morpholino-2-phenyl-*2H*-3-chromenyl)methyl]acetamide,

~~their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

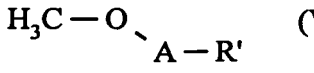
79. Compounds of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 ~~that are~~ selected from :

- N-[2-(3-benzyl-*3H*-benzo[*e*]indol-9-yl)propyl]-1-cyclohexanecarboxamide
- ethyl 9-[2-(phenylacetylamino)ethyl]-1-methyl-*3H*-benzo[*e*]indole-2-carboxylate
- N-[2-(4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro[*f*]quinolin-10-yl)ethyl]-2-phenylacetamide
- N-[2-(1-hydroxy-4-methyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrobenzo[*f*]quinolin-10-yl)ethyl]-2-phenylacetamide,

~~their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

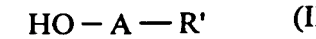
80. Compound of ~~formula (I) according to~~ claim 1 that is N-[(2-benzyl-6-ethyl-6,7-dihydrothieno[*3,2-f*]quinolin-1-yl)methyl]acetamide, ~~its enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base~~.

81. Process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) according to claim 1, characterised in that there is used as starting material the compound of formula (VIII) :



(VIII)

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore, which is subjected to demethylation using conventional agents such as HBr, $AlCl_3$, $AlBr_3$, BBr_3 or Lewis acid/nucleophile binary systems such as $AlCl_3/PhCH_2SH$, or BBr_3/Me_2S, for example, to obtain the compound of formula (IX) :



(IX)

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore,

- with which, in the presence of trifluoromethanesulphonic acid, there is condensed a thiol of formula (X) :

(X)

wherein R^1 is as defined hereinbefore, to obtain the compound of formula (I/a), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :

$$R^1—S—A—R' \qquad (I/a)$$

wherein R^1, A and R' are as defined hereinbefore,

which compound of formula (I/a), when R^1 represents a group R_a as defined hereinbefore, may be obtained directly starting from the compound of formula (X) by the action of $AlCl_3$ and the thiol of formula (XI) :

$$R_a — SH \qquad (XI)$$

wherein R_a is as defined hereinbefore,

which compound of formula (I/a) may be obtained starting from the compound of formula (I/a'), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I/a) :

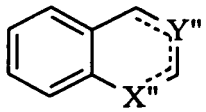
$$HS—A—R' \qquad (I/a')$$

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore, which is reacted in a basic medium with a compound of formula (XII) :

$$R'^1 — M \qquad (XII)$$

wherein R'^1 may have any of the meanings of R^1 except for hydrogen and M represents a leaving group such as a halogen atom, for example,

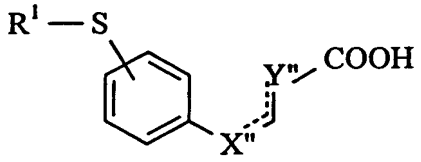
which compound of formula (I/a) may also be obtained, when A represents a ring system of formula (XIII) :



(XIII)

wherein the symbol ..... is as defined hereinbefore, Y" represents a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or a bond, and X" represents an oxygen, nitrogen or sulphur atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or NR_0 (wherein R_0 is as defined hereinbefore), it being understood that when X" represents a nitrogen atom or a group NR_0 then Y" represents a bond,

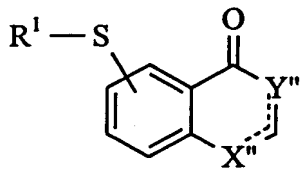
starting from a compound of formula (XIV) :



(XIV)

wherein R^1, X", Y" and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore,

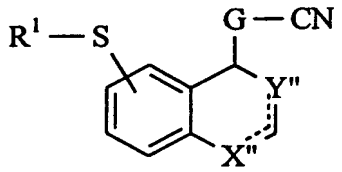
which is cyclised in the presence of polyphosphoric acid to yield the compound of formula (XV) :



(XV)

wherein R^1, X", Y" and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore,

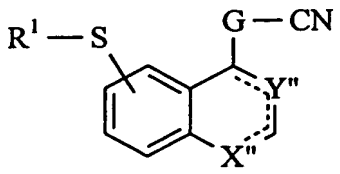
which is subjected to a Wittig reaction and then to reduction to yield the compound of formula (XVI) :



(XVI)

wherein R^1, X", Y", G and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore,

which may be oxidised to yield the compound of formula (XVII) :

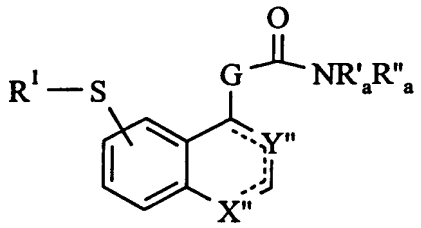


(XVII)

wherein R^1, X", Y", G and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore,

which is :

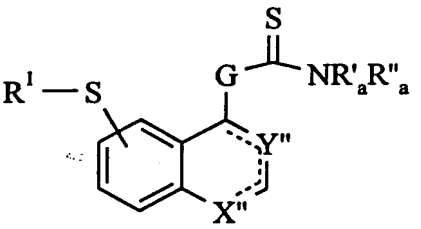
* either hydrolysed in an acid or basic medium and then subjected, after activation to the acid chloride form or in the presence of a coupling agent, to the action of an amine $HNR'_aR''_a$, wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined hereinbefore, to yield the compound of formula (I/b), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :



(I/b)

wherein R^1, X", Y", G, R'_a, R''_a and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore,

which may be subjected to a thionating agent such as Lawesson's reagent to yield the compound of formula (I/c), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :



(I/c)

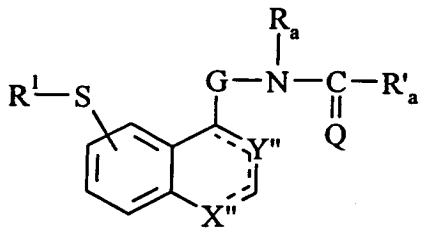
wherein R^1, X", Y", G, R'_a, R''_a and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore,

* or reduced and then reacted with :
  - an acyl chloride $ClCOR'_a$ or the corresponding anhydride (mixed or symmetrical), wherein R'_a is as defined hereinbefore, optionally followed by the action of a compound of formula (XVIII) :

$$R_{1a} — J \qquad \text{(XVIII)}$$

wherein R_{1a} can take any of the meanings of the group R_a except for a hydrogen atom and J represents a leaving group such as a halogen atom or a tosyl group,

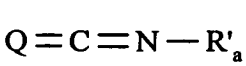
and/or by the action of a thionating agent to yield the compound of formula (I/d), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :



(I/d)

wherein R^1, X", Y", G, R_a, R'_a, Q and the symbol ..... are as defined hereinbefore,

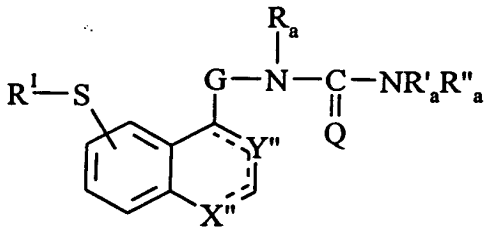
- or with a compound of formula (XIX) :



(XIX)

wherein Q and R'_a are as defined hereinbefore,

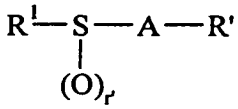
optionally followed by the action of a compound of formula (XVIII) to yield the compound of formula (I/e), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :



(I/e)

wherein R^1, X", Y", G, R_a, R'_a, $R"_a$, Q and the symbol .... are as defined hereinbefore,

which compounds (I/a) to (I/e) may be reacted with an oxidising agent such as H_2O_2, $NaIO_4$, $KMnO_4$ or NaOCl or meta-chloroperbenzoic acid, for example, to yield the compound of formula (I/f), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :



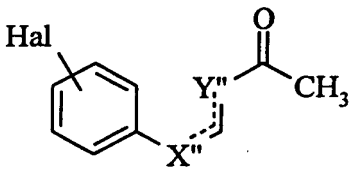
(I/f)

wherein R^1, A and R' are as defined hereinbefore and r' represents an integer such that $1 \leq r' \leq 2$,

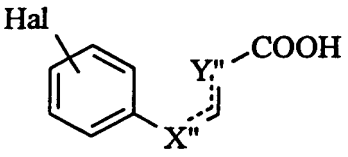
– or which compound of formula (IX) is converted, by means of the action of reagents such as $POCl_3$, PCl_5, Ph_3PBr_2, $PhPCl_4$, HBr or HI, into the corresponding halogenated compound of formula (XX) :

$$Hal - A - R' \qquad (XX)$$

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore and Hal represents a halogen atom (which compounds of formula (XX) can be obtained by exchange reactions such as, for example, the treatment of a chlorinated compound with KF in dimethylformamide to yield the corresponding fluorinated compound or the treatment of a brominated compound with KI in the presence of copper salts to yield the corresponding iodinated compound, and which compounds of formula (XX) can also be obtained starting from compounds of formula (XX_1) or (XX_2) :



(XX_1)



(XX_2)

wherein Hal, X" and Y" are as defined hereinbefore),

which compound of formula (XX) is :

- either treated with carbon monoxide and Bu_3SnH, the reaction being catalysed with palladium(0), to yield the corresponding aldehyde of formula (XXI) :

$$H-\underset{\underset{O}{\|}}{C}-A-R' \qquad (XXI)$$

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore,

which compound of formula (XXI) may alternatively be obtained by customary lithiation methods starting from the halogenated compound of formula (XX), or *via* the corresponding vinyl compound (obtained starting from the compound of formula (XX) by the action of

vinyltributyltin and tetrakis palladium) subjected to ozonolysis, or furthermore by direct formylation of the nucleus A, for example according to a Vilsmeier reaction,

which compound of formula (XXI) is subjected to an oxidising agent to obtain the compound of formula (XXII) :

$$HOOC - A - R' \qquad (XXII)$$

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore, which is converted, after the action of thionyl chloride and an azide, and then of an acid, into the compound of formula (I/g), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :

$$H_2N - A - R' \qquad (I/g)$$

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore, with which there is condensed one or two molecules of a compound of formula (XVIII) to obtain the compound of formula (I/h), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :

$$R'_{2a}R_{2a}N - A - R' \qquad (I/h)$$

wherein A and R' are as defined hereinbefore and R'_{2a} and R_{2a}, which may be the same or different, represent a group R_a with the following proviso : R'_{2a} and R_{2a} cannot simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom and cannot form, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, a cyclic group,

or which compound of formula (XX) is subjected, under conditions of nucleophilic aromatic substitution, to the action of an amine $R'_aR''_aNH$, wherein R'_a and R''_a are as defined hereinbefore (R'_a and R''_a may, *inter alia*, form, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, a cyclic group as defined hereinbefore), to yield the compound of formula (I/i), a particular case of the compounds of formula (I) :

$$R'_aR''_aN - A - R' \qquad (I/i)$$

wherein R'_a, R''_a, A and R' are as defined hereinbefore,

which compounds (I/a) to (I/i) can be purified in accordance with a conventional separation technique, are converted, if desired, into their addition salts with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base and, optionally, are separated into their isomers in accordance with a conventional separation technique.

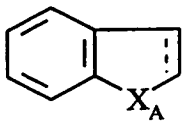
82. Process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein R represents a ring of formula (VI) as defined in claim 1, characterised in that compounds of formulae (I/a) to (I/i) are used as starting materials, which are cyclised according to described conventional methods.

83. Compounds of formula (XX_A) according to claim 74, a particular case of the compounds of formula (XX) :

$$Hal - A_A - R'_A \qquad (XX_A)$$

wherein :

- Hal represents a halogen atom (fluorine, chlorine, bromine, iodine),
- A_A represents :
  - a ring system of formula (a) :

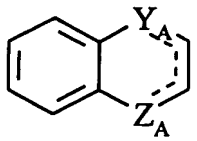


(a)

wherein X_A represents a sulphur atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2) or NR_0 (wherein R_0 is as defined hereinbefore), and the symbol .... is as defined hereinbefore,

wherein the halogen atom substitutes the benzene nucleus and the group R'_A substitutes the 5-membered ring,

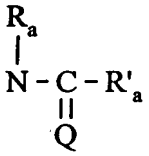
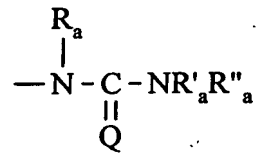
  - or a ring system of formula (b) :


(b)

wherein Y_A and Z_A, which may be the same or different, represent an oxygen or sulphur atom or a group $C(H)_q$ (wherein q is 0, 1 or 2), and the symbol .... is as defined hereinbefore,

wherein the halogen atom substitutes the benzene nucleus and the group R'_A substitutes one or other of the two rings,

which ring systems of formula (a) or (b) may be substituted (in addition to the halogen atom and the group R'_A) by one or more groups selected from R_a, COR_a, $COOR_a$, $OCOR_a$ wherein R_a is as defined hereinbefore,

- and R'_A represents a group $G\text{-}R^2_A$ wherein G is as defined hereinbefore and R^2_A represents a group  or  wherein R_a, R'_a, R''_a and Q are as defined hereinbefore,

their enantiomers and diastereoisomers, and addition salts thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base,
as synthesis intermediates but also as compounds for use in the treatment of disorders associated with the melatoninergic system.

84. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising compounds of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 80 and 83 or an addition salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base, in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

85. Pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 84 for use in the manufacture of medicaments for the treatment of disorders associated with the melatoninergic system.